



State of Utah  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

Michael O. Leavitt  
Governor

Kathleen Clarke  
Executive Director

Lowell P. Braxton  
Division Director

1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210

PO Box 145801

Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

801-538-5340

801-359-3940 (Fax)

801-538-7223 (TDD)

August 7, 2001

Mr. Lee Jenkins  
American Gilsonite Company  
Bonanza Minesite  
HC 73 Box 28  
Vernal, Utah 84078-9284

Re: Conditional Approval of Polyurethane Foam Shaft Plugging Proposal, American Gilsonite Company, Bonanza Minesite, M/047/010, Uintah County, Utah

Dear Mr. Jenkins:

The Division has reviewed the information furnished by American Gilsonite concerning the proposed use of Polyurethane Foam (PUF) to close several underground mine escapeways. The foam will be used as an alternative to concrete for closure of the H-2, H-10, and R-4 escapeway shafts.

After evaluating the supplemental information furnished by American Gilsonite, we hereby approve the use of a polyurethane foam closure for these escapeways. Because the Division has limited first-hand experience with the use of foam in this type of application, this permission is only granted for the closure of the above-mentioned escapeways. We will allow the use of this foam closure technique on these three escape shafts as an *experimental practice* (test case) and will evaluate the results of this application over an extended time period. The long-term integrity and stability of the PUF must be established, under the proposed closure conditions, before we can accept this technology as a reasonable alternative to more traditional methods of sealing mine openings.

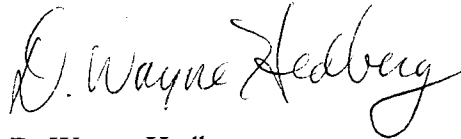
Further review and monitoring of this test case will be ongoing. We anticipate a minimum 5-year evaluation period at this time. American Gilsonite could use their annual report form as a means of forwarding updates to the Division on the integrity of these seals. Should the PUF begin to deteriorate or fail in any way, American Gilsonite will be responsible to access these locations and close the openings with other closure techniques as currently bonded. For this reason, the

Page 2  
Lee Jenkins  
M/047/010  
August 7, 2001

bond amount presently being held by the Division for closure of the H-2, H-10, & R-4 escapeways will not be changed until a final determination is made.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation in this regard. Please contact me or Doug Jensen of my staff at (801) 538-5286 and 538-5382, respectively, if you have further questions or concerns in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "D. Wayne Hedberg". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

D. Wayne Hedberg  
Permit Supervisor  
Minerals Regulatory Program

jb  
cc: Stan Perkes, BLM - State office  
Doug Jensen, OGM  
M47-10-puf.doc